

# **A Strategy for Homeless Prevention**

in Worcester, Massachusetts

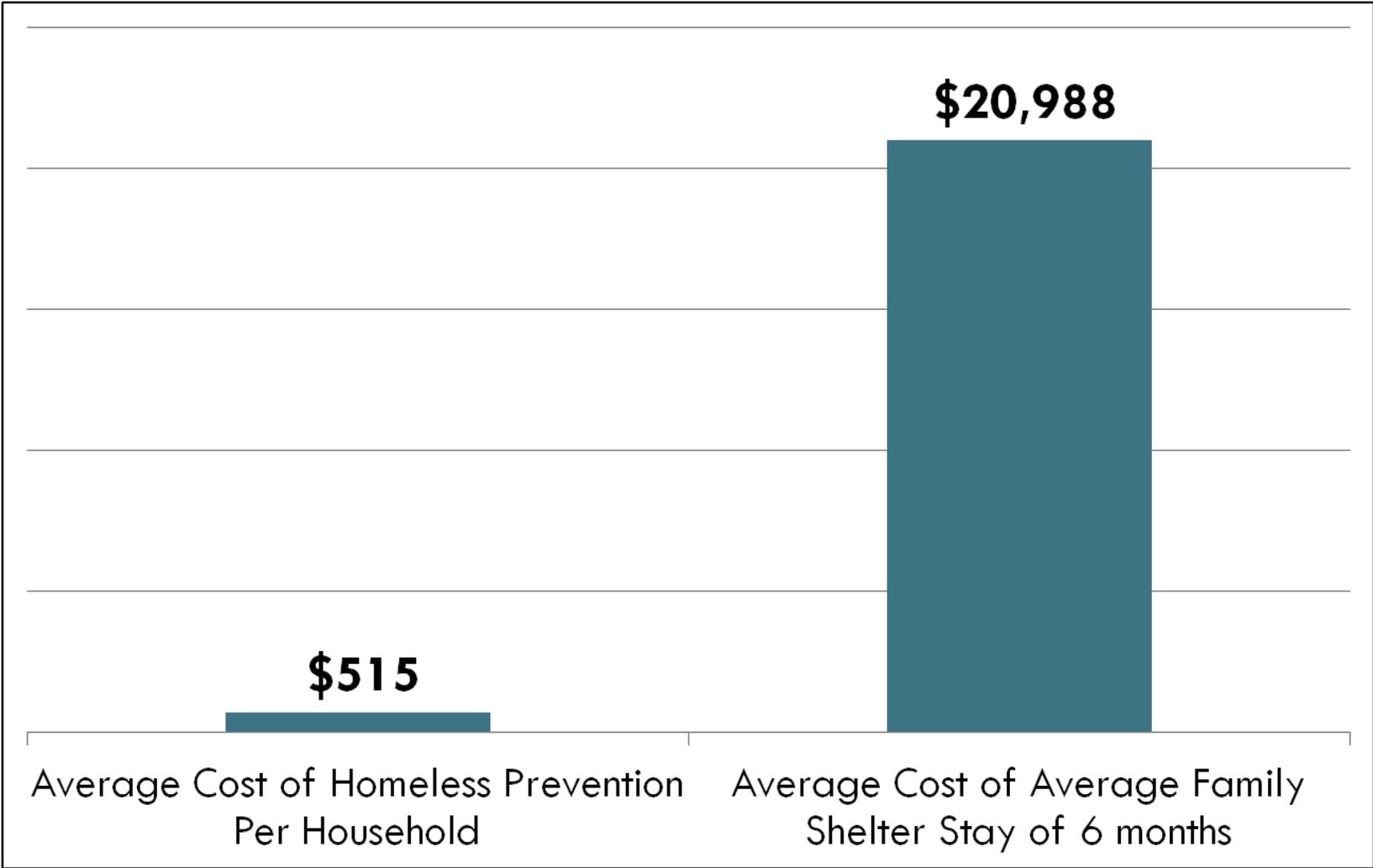
**Grace Carmark, Executive Director**

**The Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, Inc.**



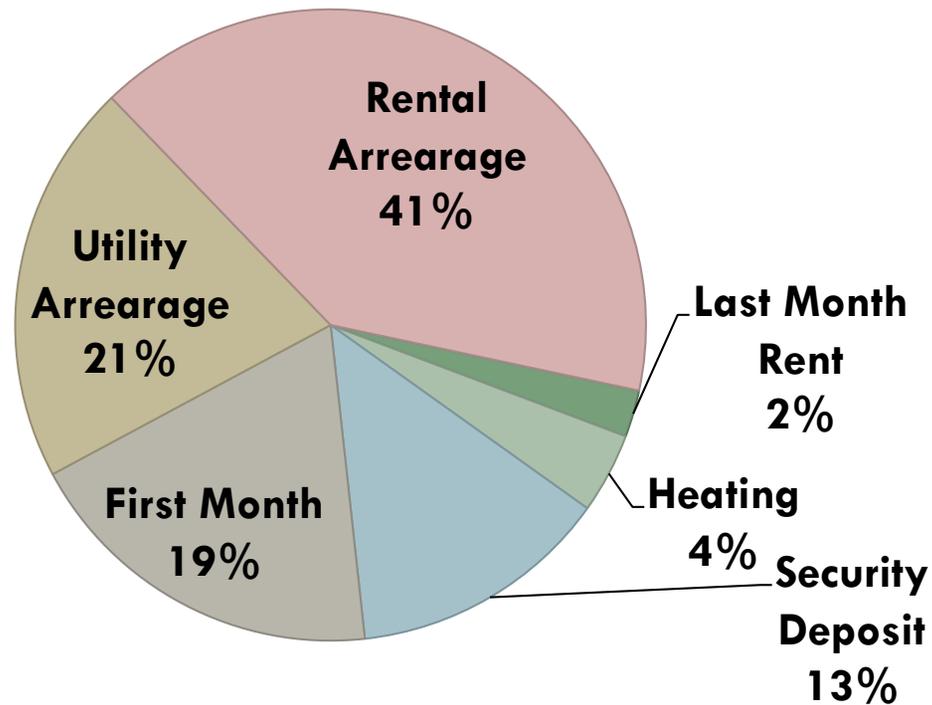
November 13, 2012

# Flexible Prevention Funds are Cost Effective and Reduce Harm to Households



# CMHA FY12 Prevention Funds Allocation

3



A total of **\$146,180.94** in prevention funds were distributed to **284 households.**

The average grant amount was just **\$515 per household.**

# Sources of CMHA Prevention Funds

4

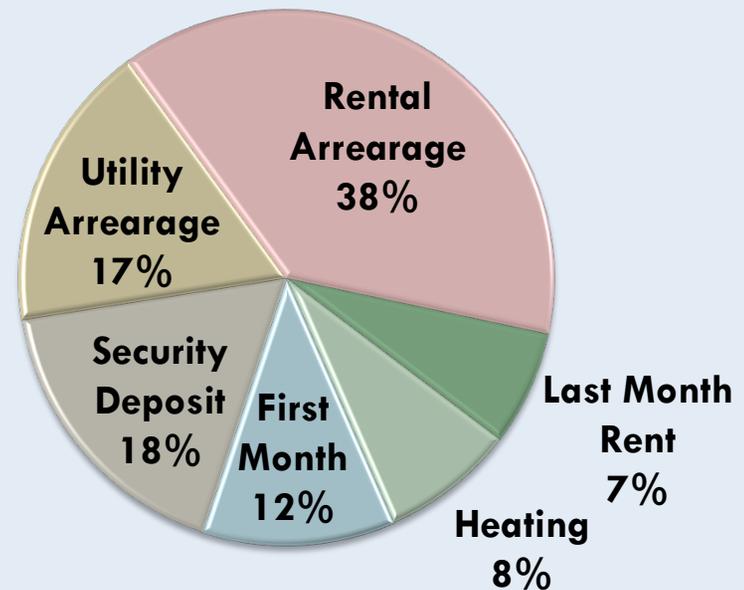
- 1) MA Rental Assistance for Families in Transition Program (RAFT)
- 2) United Way of America Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)
- 3) City of Worcester's Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG)
- 4) United Way of Central MA Safety Net Program and other local foundations
- 5) Local fundraising from area faith congregations

# Hope For Housing

5

- This is an Interfaith Coalition of 28 congregations dedicated to preventing family homelessness through partnerships with local grocery stores
- Since its inception, Hope for Housing has distributed over \$138,000 in prevention funds

In FY12, HFH raised **\$39,630** and assisted **80 households** at an average grant amount of **\$495 per family**



# RAFT

6

- With up to \$4,000 in prevention funds available to each eligible household, RAFT allows for longer term support for families facing a housing crisis
- As of 10/31/12, 445 households statewide have received RAFT assistance at an average cost of \$2,250 per household
  - 31 of those families were assisted through CMHA, at an average cost of \$1,887 per household

# Questions?

7



Central MA Housing Alliance, Inc.  
6 Institute Road  
Worcester, MA. 01609  
508-752-5519  
[www.cmhaonline.org](http://www.cmhaonline.org)



Image: Boston Globe